

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 11902 01 OF 02 301237Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PA-01 H-01 INR-10  
SSO-00 PM-05 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 /045 W  
-----120743 301335Z /45S

O 301226Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8571  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 11902

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS PBOR PEPR PGOV EG IS SA US  
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN REACTIONS TO AIRCRAFT PACKAGE SUBMIS-  
SIONS AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT RE PEACE SETTLEMENT

REF: (A) STATE 110055, (B) CAIRO 11890, (C) CAIRO 11899

SUMMARY: ON THIS COPTIC EASTER SUNDAY, EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL-  
DOM AND PUBLIC ARE STUNNED AND ANXIOUS ABOUT TWO DEVELOP-  
MENTS: SEPARATE AIRCRAFT SUBMISSIONS AND PRESIDENT  
CARTER'S STATEMENT TO NEW YORK TIMES RE MIDDLE EAST  
PROBLEM. ACTION ON A/C SEEN AS SERIOUS RETREAT IN FACE  
ZIONIST PRESSURE AND EGYPTIAN COMMENTS RANGE FROM  
"ANOTHER ASWAN DAM" TO "I TOLD YOU SO." WE DOING BEST TO  
REASSURE THAT CHANGE ONLY TECHNICALITY. TODAY'S PRESS  
HIGHLIGHTS PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENTS ON NO PALESTINIAN  
STATE, BEGIN'S SELF-RULE FOR WEST BANK, AND NO TOTAL  
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 11902 01 OF 02 301237Z

WITHDRAWAL WHICH ARE SEEN AS "STRANGE AND CONTRADICTORY"  
TO PREVIOUS U.S. STATEMENTS. REQUEST TEXT PRESIDENT  
STATEMENT AND DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE NIACT IMMEDIATE.  
FONMIN HAS CALLED IN AMBASSADOR AT 1430 LOCAL TODAY.  
END SUMMARY.

1. SEPARATE SUBMISSIONS. AFTER LONG BUILDUP THAT AIR-

CRAFT SALES WOULD GO FORWARD ONLY AS "PACKAGE," SEPARATE SUBMISSIONS ARE TOTALLY MISUNDERSTOOD HERE. GENERAL REACTION IS THAT IT REPRESENTS WHITE HOUSE RETREAT IN FACE OF PRO-ISRAELI CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE GROUPS. AT JAPANESE NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION LAST EVENING, ALLEGED RETREAT WAS TOPIC OF VIRTUALLY ALL CONVERSATIONS. SOME PROFESSED TO HAVE HEARD VOA BROADCAST DESCRIBING ACTION AS AN ADMINISTRATION RETREAT. ONE SENIOR EDITOR CALLED IT "ANOTHER ASWAN DAM." DESCRIPTION IS RIDICULOUS, BUT REFLECTS PREVAILING MOOD. FORMER FONMIN FAHMY COMMENTED TO INTERLOCUTORS THAT THINGS WERE HAPPENING JUST AS HE HAD PREDICTED TWO MONTHS AGO. THE ADMINISTRATION, HE SAID, WHILE WELL-MEANING, CANNOT FACE DOWN PRO-ISRAELI CONGRESSIONAL LOBBY PRESSURES. SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS PRESENT WERE HAVING A HEYDAY POINTING TO LATEST INDICATION OF WHAT THEY DESCRIBED AS USG NON-RELIABILITY.

3. WE ARE DOING UTMOST REASSURE EGYPTIANS THAT OUR COMMITMENT TO AIRCRAFT SALES IS AS FIRM AS EVER. THEY SHOULD NOT GIVE UNDUE WEIGHT TO WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY A PROCEDURAL AND TACTICAL SHIFT IN METHOD OF SUBMISSION DESIGNED TO IMPROVE PROSPECTS FOR APPROVAL. CONGRESS CONTENTS LAW REQUIRES THAT EACH PACKAGE MUST BE SUBMITTED SEPARATELY. ADMINISTRATION HAS ALREADY MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT CONSIDERS ALL FOUR DEALS ESSENTIAL TO FURTHERANCE OF USG POLICIES  
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PAGE 03 CAIRO 11902 01 OF 02 301237Z

IN MIDDLE EAST AND PRESIDENT CARTER, IN CONNECTION WITH HIS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, RESERVES RIGHT TO TAKE FINAL DECISION DEPENDING UPON CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.

4. AS REPORTED REF B, AMBASSADOR MADE THESE POINTS TO VP MUBARAK YESTERDAY MORNING IN AN EFFORT REASSURE HIM AND SADAT. IN VIEW OF NAGGING PRESS MISGIVINGS ABOUT REASONS FOR CHANGE IN SUBMISSION, AMBASSADOR TOLD SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES MAJOR EGYPTIAN PAPERS LAST NIGHT ABOUT TALK WITH MUBARAK AND AUTHORISED THEM USE INFO. TODAY'S AHAM MAKES THE POINT, ALTHOUGH IT SLIGHTLY OVERSTATES WHAT WAS SAID. (GUMHURIYYA, HOWEVER, SEES CHANGE AS VICTORY FOR ISRAEL IN EXERTING PRESSURE ON CARTER AT VERY TIME WHEN ME PEACE "HINGES ON U.S. SUCCESS IN EXERTING PRESSURE ON ISRAEL.") LATER IN EVENING AMBASSADOR MADE SAME POINTS TO FONMIN KAMEL, WHO WAS ALSO UNEASY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED. EMBOFFS ARE MAKING SAME POINTS TO ALL CONTACTS. CAIRO RADIO DOMESTIC SERVICE CARRIES HELPFUL ACCOUNT OF GHORBAL'S MEETING WITH SANDERS AND FORMER'S UPBEAT COMMENTS MADE AFTER THAT MEETING.

5. RE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT, THIS MORNING'S AHRAH HAS  
BANNER HEADLINES "STRANGE STATEMENT BY CARTER CONTRA-  
DICTING ALL HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENTS"; "CARTER TOLD NEW  
YORK TIMES: MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT WILL BE REALIZED  
WITHOUT ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE";  
"FUTURE OF WEST BANK WILL BE BASED MOSTLY ON BEGIN PLAN  
FOR GRANTING SELF-RULE"; AND "FONMIN WILL ASK FOR TEXT OF  
INTERVIEW BEFORE GOE EXPRESSES ITS VIEW." SUBHEADLINE  
INDICATES FONMIN WILL ASK TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR TODAY  
TO OBTAIN EXPLANATION. (KAMEL'S OFFICE CALLED AT NOON  
TO ASK THAT AMBASSADOR MEET WITH HIM AT 1430 LOCAL TODAY.)  
PRESIDENT'S ALLEGED STATEMENT THAT PERMANENT SETTLEMENT  
WILL NOT REQUIRE TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED

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PAGE 04 CAIRO 11902 01 OF 02 301237Z

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 11902 02 OF 02 301239Z

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CAIRO 11902

ARAB TERRITORIES AND WILL BE BASED MAINLY ON BEGIN PLAN

FOR SELF-RULE HAS TOUCHED RAW NERVES HERE. AMBASSADOR RECEIVED SEVERAL PRESS CALLS THIS MORNING ABOUT STATEMENT. RECURRENT QUESTION WAS IS LATEST STATEMENT A RETREAT FROM LAST YEAR'S PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT THAT ISRAEL SHOULD WITHDRAW TO 67 BORDERS WITH ONLY MINOR RECTIFICATIONS. WE MAY EXPECT MORE QUESTIONS ALONG THESE LINES.

6. SINCE TOMORROW IS EGYPTIAN HOLIDAY, PLEASE SEND NIACT IMMEDIATE FULL TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT TO NEW YORK TIMES AND ANY EXPLANATORY COMMENTS THAT DEPT BELIEVES MAY BE HELPFUL.

7. WE SHOULD BE IN NO DOUBT THAT ABOVE TWO DEVELOPMENTS, COMING ON EVE BEGIN VISIT, HAVE CREATED WIDESPREAD SHOCK AND GLOOM ON PART OF EGYPTIANS AND ARE LIKELY TO CAUSE SADAT AND GOE SOME EMBARRASSMENT. EGYPTIANS WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 11902 02 OF 02 301239Z

CLOSELY WATCHING WHAT COMES OUT OF BEGIN'S WASHINGTON TALKS. EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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